THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that loans and advances granted by banks to agro-based industries which are eligible to classified as small scale industries, are inter-alia, treated as priority sectora advances and such advances qualify for liberal margin requirements. In terms of existing instructions of RBI, no margin is to be taken by banks for credit limit upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000. For credit limits over Rs. 25,000 a margin of 15% to 25% is taken depending on the purpose and quantum of loan.

(b) and (c) The data reporting system of the RBI does not yield district-wise data on the number of applications rejected. However, district-wise data on the number of applicants to whom loans have been sanctioned by the nationalised banks for dairy development and poultry farming in Ratnagiri district are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Per Capita Amount of Central Grant to Orissa**

4265. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government to increase the per capita amount of Central grant to the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa has been requesting from time to time for allocation of increased Central assistance to the State. The quantum of Central assistance to be given to the various States including Orissa is determined by the Planning Commission within the overall amounts earmarked for this purpose and on the basis of criteria like modified Gadgil Formula, etc. As such it has not been possible to accede to the request of Government of Orissa for an increase in Central assistance.

*[English]*

**Opening of New Branches of Nationalised Banks in Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)**

4266. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new branches of nationalised banks in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the places where these branches will be opened in the above district bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Opening of branches of nationalised banks under the extant branch licensing policy (1990-95) is a continuous process, which is governed by licences issued by Reserve Bank of India in this regard. Hence, at this stage it is not possible to project the number of branches of banks that will be opened in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra.